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Ken R. Zeman
Attorney for Applicant(s)

24 Jan 2001
Date of Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): **KANG TING**

Assignee: **The Regents of the University of California**

Title: **NELL-1 ENHANCED BONE MINERALIZATION**

Serial No.: **09/412,297**

Filing Date: **October 5, 1999**

Examiner: **R. Zeman**

Art Unit: **1645**

Docket No.: **M-9629 US**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

This document is filed in response to the restriction requirement dated December 5, 2000. A Change of Correspondence address and a petition to extend the period of response for one month is enclosed.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 5, 2000, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following groups under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- Group I: Claims 1, 2, and 8-12 as drawn to methods of screening for an agent that alters NELL-1 gene expression as measured by protein expression.
- Group II: Claims 1-3-7 and 10-12 as drawn to methods of screening for an agent that alters NELL-1 gene expression as measured by RNA levels;
- Group III: Claims 13 and 24 as drawn to methods of pre-screening NELL-1 modulators by measuring specific binding of said modulator to the NELL-1 protein or nucleic acid in an animal;
- Group IV: Claims 13-16 and 19-23 as drawn to methods of pre-screening NELL-1 modulators by measuring specific binding of said modulator to the

09/412,297 NELL-1 protein; NELL-1 protein;